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27. — *Dr. Oldham at Greystones, and his Talk there.* New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1860. 12mo. pp. 342.

THIS book is often amusing, almost always wise, sometimes tedious. Its motto, *De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*, is hardly too broad for its scope, which embraces cosmogony and the vices of New York, architecture and housewifery, the profoundest mysteries of theology and the woman's rights controversy, and passes at a leap from *maxima* to *minima*, and from *minima* to *maxima*. The Doctor, whose talk fills the greater part of the volume, is as garrulous and whimsical as he is sensible and kind; and though, were he an actual doctor, we would gladly accept the bran of his discourse for the large percentage of fine flour mixed with it, should he be again presented to the public, his readers will not, we think, be any the less grateful to his editor for using the sieve.

28. — *Sir Rohan's Ghost. A Romance.* Boston : J. E. Tilton & Co. 1860. 12mo. pp. 352.

SELDOM has a first book by a young writer been so full of promise as this. Its very faults are those flowing from an exuberance of rich fancy and fervid imagination. The story is subsidiary to its high moral significance, and is rather brought out by the workings of its prime hero's horror-stricken conscience, than unfolded by direct narration. It is a story of early guilt, followed by the haunting of weird and fearful shapes projected upon the outward world from the remorseful consciousness within, made visible, tangible, and audible by the Nemesis that unrelentingly pursues inextinguishable crime, and at times so pervading the surrounding atmosphere as to intrude upon other life-spheres than the one which they persistently people with their phantasms. But the power of the work resides not wholly or chiefly in this bold conception so vividly embodied. It has other features, as gently yet as forcefully attractive as this is terribly fascinating. Descriptive literature, in various departments both of nature and art, is greatly enriched by many of these pages; and in the numerous descriptive passages we hardly know which most to admire, the minuteness and verisimilitude of the details, or the warmth of imaginative genius which fuses them into a series of brilliant prose-poems that claim, yet scarce need, rhythm to make them prose no longer. We express our first and un-moved opinion with regard to the work; — others may differ with us as to what has already been achieved; but there can be — we believe there is — only a unanimous judgment as to the author's wonderful power,

and as to the prestige of future fame afforded by these first-fruits, in which large knowledge, cultivated taste, and high creative genius are equally and signally manifest.

- 29.—*All the Children's Library. Faith and Patience. A Story, and Something More, for Boys.* Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1860. 16mo. pp. 211.

THE other books in this series we have not read; but if they resemble this, we earnestly hope that they may become "all the children's library." For lessons of truth, honesty, generosity, courtesy, and all of manliness (not more) that should be found in the ingenuous boy,—and these lessons not in a didactic form, but insinuated in the natural course of a graceful and charming story,—we have seldom seen "Faith and Patience" paralleled, never surpassed, in juvenile literature. Its morality is that of the Sermon on the Mount, and it is redolent throughout of the spirit of the Divine Teacher.

- 30.—*Fragrant Flowers, and other Poems.* By DANIEL A. DROWN, Portsmouth, N. H. Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1860. 16mo. pp. 236.

THE author of these poems was a graduate of Dartmouth College, a fine scholar, and a youth of high promise. On the threshold of active life, he was seized with a disease, which, first affecting the optic nerves, passed thence into the entire nervous system, and has confined him for nearly fifteen years to a room from which every ray of light is carefully excluded, and for most of the time to a bed of acute and unmitigated suffering. We know not a case in which, for so long a period, such an amount of privation and pain has been endured. And it has been borne with a Christian fortitude that has not once yielded to murmuring or despondency. The resources which at first sufficed for his needs have been exhausted in vain attempts to gain relief, and in the necessary expenses of such an illness, and he is now dependent on the not reluctant kindness of friends who know his merits and his necessities. The poems contained in this volume were dictated to others, or written by his own hand in utter darkness, to beguile the weariness of chronic torture, and with no ulterior purpose. They are now published with the hope that the proceeds of the volume will contribute to his subsistence and comfort. Without the perfect finish which they would have